

# AFGHANISTAN, VICTOR OVER GREAT BRITAIN, COMPLEXES PROBLEM OF INDIA BY BACKING MOVE FOR INDEPENDENCE

## ANCIENT COUNTRY OF WARLIKE PROWESS IS MENACE TO ENGLAND

Buffer State Larger Than France, Between Russia and India, Noted for Its Love of Fair Play and Vindictive Passions When Aroused by Treachery—Natives Who Forced Great Britain's Hand Now Taking Up Indian Cult and Stand Sponsor to Fast-Growing Spirit of Independence Among Vast Oriental Country

By BASANTA KOOMAR ROY.

NOT long ago President Harding most cordially received at the White House the Afghan commission, headed by General Mohammed Vally Khan. The President also sent through this commission a letter of warm felicitations to His Majesty the Amir Amanullah Khan of Afghanistan. The same commission had just left London in utter disgust and bitter anger, only to be warmly welcomed and cordially received by the President of the French Republic and other French diplomats, as they once before were received previous to their departure for America.

Mohammed Vally Khan has also been most graciously greeted at Moscow, Rome and Berlin. These little incidents, deeply delved into, may supply a significant index to the international problems that the world will be forced to face tomorrow. The man who is hated in London is welcomed at Washington, Paris, Moscow, Berlin and Rome!

### CURZON ATTACKS RUSSIA.

Almost simultaneously with the Afghan commission's rupture with Lord Curzon, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the British Peace Commission at Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, headed by Sir Henry Dobbs, has left for India. And Lord Curzon has just written a strong note of protest to the Russian government, in the course of which he says: "By the terms of the preamble of the trade agreement concluded between His Majesty's Government and the Russian Soviet Government on March 16, the Russian Soviet Government undertook to refrain from any attempt, by military or diplomatic or any other form of action or propaganda, to encourage any of the peoples of Asia, in any form of hostile action against British interests or the British Empire, especially in India and in the independent State of Afghanistan."

"His Majesty's Government holds a mass of indisputable evidence that Jamal Pasha was despatched to Afghanistan by the Soviet government, and that the lines of policy he is following were dictated to him from Moscow, and that its execution is supervised by the Russian Legation in Kabul."

"In the late summer of 1920, Jamal Pasha was on his way to Kabul from Moscow, and he was introduced to M. Suritz by the intimation that he and his companions, including the notorious Indian revolutionary, Barkatullah, were being sent by the eastern department of the Moscow commissariat for foreign affairs, and that particular reliance was placed in him as representing both the Russian Soviet government and the Turkish revolutionary government."

"In spite of all the professions of good faith on the part of the Soviet government, there have been unabated indications of bitter hostility toward this country and its dominions and dependencies."

The Afghan government has just ratified the Russo-Afghan Treaty signed at Moscow on February 28, last. General Mohammed Vally Khan was one of the signatories to this treaty. Lord Curzon's note scathingly denounces some of the provisions of this treaty.

### AID TO AFGHANS PLEDGED.

Clause No. 10 of this treaty reads: "In order to strengthen the friendly, mutual relations between the high contracting parties the government of the Russian Socialist Federate Soviet Republic agrees to give to Afghanistan financial and other help."

And in the supplement to this clause Russia offers to give Afghanistan the following help: "(1) Yearly free subsidy to the extent of 1,000,000 rubles in gold or silver coin or bullion; (2) construction of a telegraph line—Kushka-Herat-Kandahar-Kabul; (3) over and above this the government of the Russian Socialist Federate Soviet Republic expresses its readiness to place at the disposal of the Afghan government technical and other specialists."

Lord Curzon also complains that Hindu revolutionists with the knowledge of western chemistry are engaged in manufacturing smokeless gunpowder at Kabul and explosives on the eastern frontiers of Afghanistan for importation into India to be used against the British Raj.

For nearly a century both Russia

and England have been doing their utmost to gain the undisputed upperhand in Afghanistan. Officially England bought it with the annual tribute of \$600,000 regularly paid to the Amir, who thus left his foreign affairs in the hands of the Briton. England fought several wars of wanton aggression with Afghanistan. The first Afghan war of 1838-1842 resulted so disastrously for the British that only one soldier out of 16,000 reached Jellalabad to tell the story. The last war was fought in 1919.

Fighting, however, is still continuously going on in the Afghan borders between the British forces and the Afghan tribesmen. The London newspapers are frequently publishing accounts of such encounters.

The British papers in India are suggesting that the Russian Government is financing these raids. It will indeed be long before the truth is known. In the meantime, Colonel Yato, a member of the British Parliament, has asked for the deportation of Mahatma Gandhi, for the latter frankly told a special correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph that he "preferred Bolshevism to British rule."

The Russo-Afghan bugbear has scared the Briton to such an extent that in the frontiers the British are busy night and day building fortifications and digging trenches; and even the Manchester Guardian is editorially advocating the building in India's Afghan frontier a "belt of wire such as was built before the trenches of the Western front . . . with the modern appliances for alarm."

### BRITAIN'S SAVAGE REVENGE.

On the assassination of Amir Habibullah Khan, on February 20, 1919, his third son, Amanullah Khan, ascended the throne, and as a protest against the assassination of his beloved father, which was supposed to have been inspired by British agents, he declared the complete independence of Afghanistan, and at once declared war on the British government in India.

His army invaded British India and occupied strategic peaks and passes. Defeated in battle, the British took reprisals on the civil populations of Afghanistan by throwing deadly bombs from aeroplanes and thus killing thousands of unarmed men, women and children in undefended cities.

After much bloodshed on both sides, a treaty of peace was signed on August 11, 1919, at Rawalpindi. The victorious Afghan forced the vanquished Briton to openly state in black and white: "Afghanistan is left officially free and independent in its affairs, both internal and external. Furthermore, all previous treaties have been canceled by this war."

General Vally Kahn has been declaring this fact of Afghanistan's complete independence at the major capitals of the world.

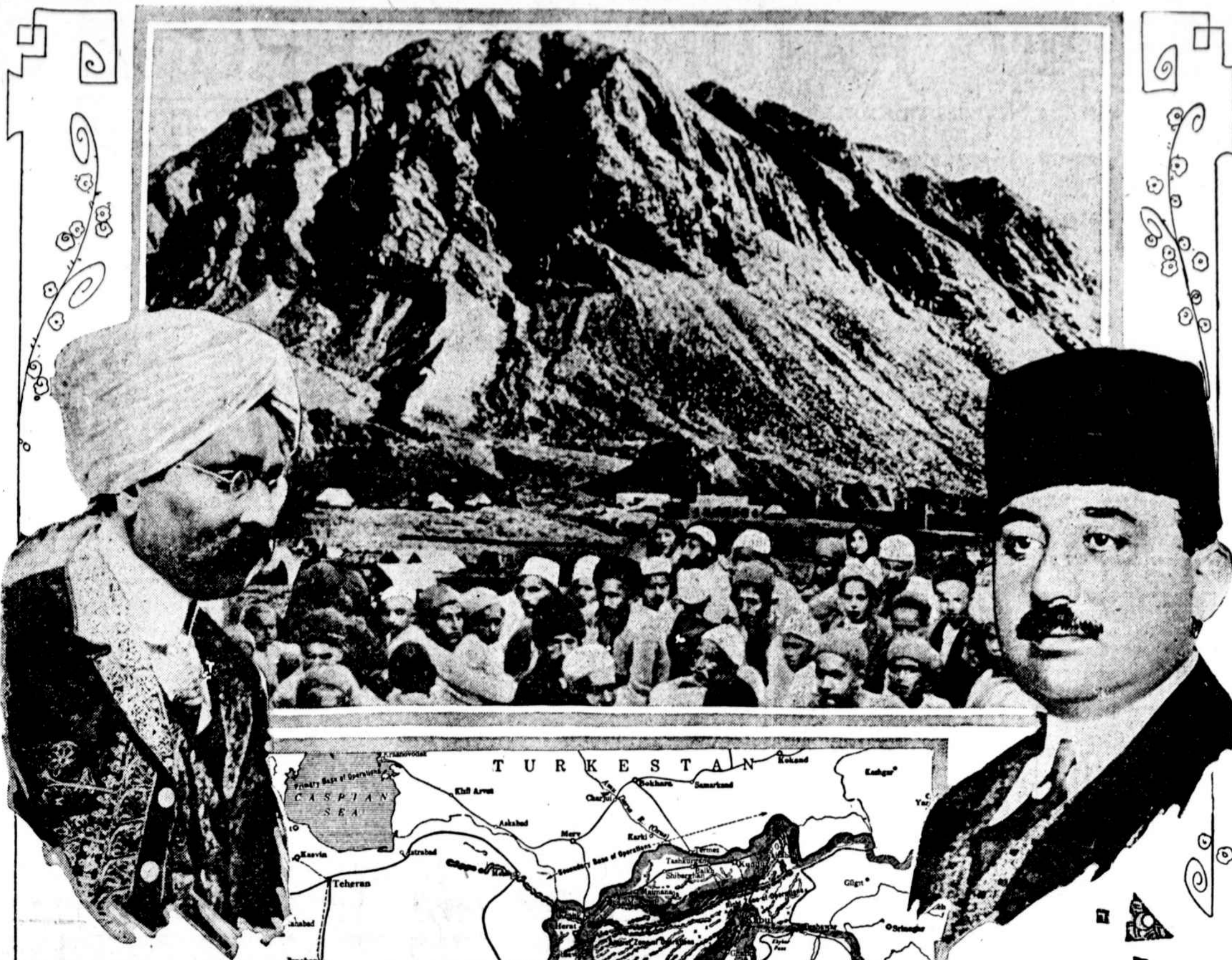
"What is Afghanistan?" I was recently asked by an American. The average American does not know whether Afghanistan is the name of a man, a country or a bird; a mountain, a flower or a constellation. It is, in fact, a country on the north-west of India, nestling against the roof of the world.

On the map of Asia, the largest continent, Afghanistan appears like a very small country. But this mountainous country covers an area of 250,000 square miles. In other words, four countries like France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark can easily be placed within its boundaries and it has a population of about 10,000,000. That is to say, one-tenth of the population of the United States lives in Afghanistan.

It is a buffer state between India and Asiatic Russia on one side and

## RUGGED PEAKS MAKE AFGHANISTAN NATURAL FORT

A well-fortified Afghan pass near British-Indian frontier, with Afghan military camp at base. Greatly resembling Switzerland, Afghanistan presents a formidable barrier to invasion from any quarter. In the foreground are types of Afghan natives.



Bodyguard of the Amir of Afghanistan filing through a mountain pass. Above is a portrait of Maulavi Barkatullah, a member of the Indian Provisional Government formed in Afghanistan.

between India and Persia on the other.

The Afghan meadows and streams, mountains and historic passes have seen, from the days of Alexander of Macedon to the days of Lenin of Moscow, the ups and downs of many nations and races and empires. The mighty Mogul and Pathan rulers of India came from Afghanistan. They have left to India the heritage of the grandeur of her architecture, the finest in the world, that attracts pilgrims of beauty, mineral and agricultural products. It has iron, coal, gold, silver, copper, lead, antimony, sulphur and other minerals in abundance. The agricultural products include rice, wheat, barley, lentils, tobacco, castor oil seeds, berries, millet, lumber and cotton. It is mainly an agricultural country.

Some of its industries are the hand manufacture of felts, silks, carpets and camel and goat hair goods. Afghanistan imports from India chiefly cotton goods, sugar, hardware, leather, indigo, dyeing materials and silver treasure. The value of such imports amounted to \$8,035,000 in 1919-1920. Afghanistan exports to India fruits, timber, vegetables, grain and pulse, wool, silk, cattle, hides, tobacco, etc., worth about \$9,875,000.

The Afghan belongs to the Caucasian race. He calls himself Benl-Islam. The people are mostly Mohammedans, and the principal races are the Pathans, Wazirs, Hazars, Ghilzais, Aimeaks and Yojiks. The Afghan is kind, courteous and hospitable. He is a faithful friend and a willing slave to a benefactor, and is equally merciless with treach-



Map showing strategic position of Afghanistan, bordered on the east by India, south by Baluchistan, north by Turkestan and west by Persia. Easy communication with Russia is afforded by the proximity of both to the Caspian Sea.

erous friends. That is why the British do not like the Afghan, and are ever ready to discredit him.

In patriotic zeal and fighting spirit he is second to none. He is exceedingly patriotic; this makes him a fearless soldier.

Once an English civilian was walking behind an Afghan soldier. The muzzle of the loaded gun of the soldier somehow pointed at the head of the Englishman. He was afraid, and asked the Afghan soldier to change the position of his rifle. The Afghan calmly said: "If you are to die today, my changing the position of the gun will not save your life," and he laughed. The Englishman, however, could not join him in his laughter. Physically the Afghan is a superb specimen. He is a born horseman and a splendid shot.

In spite of all recent attempts at reforms the Government of Afghanistan is still an absolute monarchy in spirit. But the young and handsome Amin Amanullah Khan is always in touch with the public opinion of his kingdom, and looks upon himself as a servant, and not a master of his people. He has immensely strengthened his power and prestige by making an alliance with the Turkish Nationalist Government at Ankara.

### FLAG FLIES IN TURKEY.

The official flag over the first Afghan legation in Turkey was hoisted at Ankara last June by Mustafa Kemal Pasha himself. The Afghan ambassador, Sultan Ahmad Khan, thus spoke on the occasion:

"Now, at the moment when the British imperialists are trying to steal our rights and destroy the Islamic world, Turkey proves again her friendship. The Turko-Russo-

Afghan alliance will frustrate the plans of invaders of our rights."

Kemal Pasha replied by saying: "Our efforts in common are bound to have great weight in Oriental politics and presage a happy era for the Moslem world. What the Moslem world is now demanding is its independence."

"I am especially glad you refer to our joint alliance with Russia, which will prove the salvation of all the peoples of the Orient, and which is bound to have more and more satisfactory developments."

### STRONGEST MOSLEM POWER.

In military strength and offensive and defensive preparedness, Afghanistan is the strongest power in the Moslem world today. Under the consummate statesmanship and excellent organizing ability of the late Amir Habibullah Khan and his father, the late Amir Abdur Rahman, the Afghan army was thoroughly reorganized, and the entire country was converted into an impregnable fort.

This land of Amirs has a standing army of about 100,000 soldiers. But by a system of compulsory military training it has tremendously increased its fighting efficiency. Today every Afghan is a trained soldier. And at a short notice the Amir can easily mobilize a million soldiers faultlessly equipped with all the latest implements of modern warfare, including, to use the words of an English captain in India, "German field guns, poison gas, gas bombs and masks, flame throwers, trench mortars, and even battle planes."

At Kabul there are several munition factories, where arms, ammunitions and supplies are manufactured under experts from other lands. Present-day Afghanistan is the vi-

## GEN. MOHAMMED VALY KHAN, head of the Afghan Mission which recently left England in anger because of antagonistic reception there.

brant center of a sweeping storm that is passing over the great continent of Asia and threatens to destroy the last vestige of British paramountcy in the East.

The complexity of the Afghan situation has been all the more enhanced by the establishment of an Indian Provisional Republican Government in Afghanistan, under the leadership of the Hindu Prince Raja Mahendra Pratap and eminent Mohammedan scholars like Maulavi Barkatullah and Dr. Hafiz.

It is also reported in the Indian papers that the illustrious Ali brothers—Mahammed Ali and Shaukat Ali—recently arrested in India for turning Indian soldiers in the British army into patriots, were in touch with the Amir of Afghanistan in more ways than one.

### MOHAMMED ALI'S SPEECH.

In a stirring speech at Madras last April Mahammed Ali publicly declared that he would help the Amir of Afghanistan with men, money and munitions if he invaded British India to free the people therein, but would fight the same Amir if he came to conquer India.

And again, in an interview on the same speech, he said, at Allahabad: "If 20,000,000 of Hindus cannot liberate India without foreign help, I hope and trust that seven scores of Musselmans can and will."

The friendship and co-operation between the Ali Brothers and Mahatma Gandhi symbolize the unalloyed unity of Hindu-Moslem opposition to the British Raj for the emancipation of the 330,000,000 people of India.

Commenting on Mohammed Ali's attitude toward Afghanistan, Mahatma Gandhi writes "I would in a sense, certainly assist the Amir of Afghanistan if he waged war against the British government. That is to say, I would openly tell my countrymen that it would be a crime to help a government which had lost the confidence of the nation to remain in power."

"On the other hand, I would not ask India to raise levies for the Amir. That would be against the creed of non-violence accepted by both Hindus and Musselmans."

"Even some of the best of us today really believe that the military budget is being piled up for protecting India against foreign aggression. I suggest that it is being piled up for want of faith in the Sikhs, the Gurkhas, the Pathans and the

## Moslem Country's Mission, Headed by General Mohammed Vally Khan, Angered by London Reception After Cordial Welcome at Washington.

Rajputs; i. e., for want of faith in us, and for the purpose of forced subjection."

The Indo-Afghan friendship has been growing for twenty years. There is a school of Indian thinkers who are even willing to offer the Amir of Afghanistan the throne of Delhi in order to be able to drive the British out of India.

I remember how warmly Amir Habibullah Khan was received by the people of India during his trip in 1907. But the British government did its utmost to keep him out of the reach of the Hindustanese. What happened to me personally when I tried to pay my respects to him will ever remain sculptured in my memory: At Allahabad I went to see my friend, Srish Chandra Vasu, the eminent Sanskrit scholar, off at the railway station. I found the station so neat and clean that I was quite taken aback at such a sudden transformation.

Out of curiosity I inquired and learned that the special train of the Amir of Afghanistan was soon expected to stop at the station.

I asked a police officer if I could stay there to see the Amir. "No!" was the abrupt reply. "You may go on the other platform, the up train side, and there stand."

That I did. While waiting I heard a higher British police official shout to the policeman near me: "Bangali Babu Ko mikal deo, Bangali Babu Ko mikal deo" ("Drive out the Bengali Babu, Drive out the Bengali Babu.") I was the only Bengali Babu on the platform.

### THREATENED WITH DEATH.

Immediately a British policeman asked me to get out. I refused to do so. He was angry, caught hold of my right wrist and said: "If you do not get out at once, I shall throw you under the wheels of the running train."

I quickly caught hold of his right wrist with my left hand and said: "Mr. Policeman, if you throw me under the wheels of a running train, I shall not go alone, I will take you along with me."

Of a sudden the policeman's anger vanished. He took off his hand from my wrist, smiled, and said: "Babu, the Amir's special train is coming in." So it did. The long, long train stopped.

But quite lucky for myself, the Amir's coach was just in front of me, and as the Amir was sitting on the wrong side of the train, he happened to be exactly opposite the place where I stood. My joy knew no bounds, and I shouted India's rallying cry—the war cry—"Bandemataram."

The Amir laughed seriously. Suddenly he grew stern. He took the cigarette from his mouth, returned my salute and said something which I did not understand.

This was in January, 1907, if I remember right.

The Amir's tour and his subtle speeches and acts indisputably awakened the patriots of India into a newer way of thinking. They began to realize the importance of foreign co-operation to strengthen the new revolutionary movement that was scarcely two years old then. It is needless to disguise the fact that the Indo-Afghan Alliance is now an international factor of major importance, and that it has rendered the position of the British in India all the more perilous.

The magnificent fight that the Moplahs of Malabar are putting up against the British military forces in India proves conclusively that India alone can win her independence, and that the days of the British rule in India are numbered. By her superhuman heroism on the battlefield, triumphant Ireland has undermined the foundation of the British Empire beyond redemption. It now rests with India and Afghanistan to give the finishing touch to free mankind from British slavery and England from the bondage of imperialism.

## "London to Paris" Air Rates Cheap

AIRPLANS with accommodations for twenty, thirty, forty and fifty passengers will shortly be put in service on the London-Paris and Toulouse-Castellane airways. The planes will have four engines each and two pilots. They will be divided into first and second classes—a novelty in air traveling—and individual parachutes will hang on the back of each passenger chair just as life-belts hang in ships.

Fares between London and Paris have been reduced until they are now only eight per cent more than the rail and steamship charges.